

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures



SSPC

UAB Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate

Student Manual

<http://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp>

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham
College of Arts and Sciences**

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

**SPANISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES
CERTIFICATE**

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1. Program description: What is the Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate program?

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at UAB offers an undergraduate *Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate* (SSPC). The courses are designed for traditional (degree-seeking) as well as non-traditional (non-degree seeking) candidates. The objective of this undergraduate academic certificate is not only to fulfill UAB candidates' academic needs for their future but to also reach out to local professionals. The growing Hispanic community in the Birmingham area is a reality and therefore, each day more and more professionals such as teachers, healthcare professionals, business professionals, law enforcement officers and others have the need to communicate with the Hispanic community. Besides having professionals in the classroom, the student population also consists of international studies, education, business, law enforcement, health-care students as well as Spanish majors who have anticipated the need for the Spanish language and culture in their future careers. The courses are content-, vocabulary- and culture-based. Students learn the vocabulary, language and cultural background that they will use in their professional field through extensive practice in class and, in some specific cases, beyond the classroom as well.

2. Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate Requirements

Candidates who wish to obtain the UAB *Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate* must fulfill the following requirements:

A) Regular (degree-seeking) UAB students will:

1. Have the Spanish pre-requisites specific to each SSPC class (see course descriptions in the Appendix).
2. Enter with and maintain a minimum of 2.8 GPA in Spanish courses.
3. Submit an electronic application (<http://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp>) and receive formal acceptance to the SSPC program.
4. Obtain a B grade or above in all SSPC courses¹.
5. Complete a minimum of six SSPC classes (18 credit hours) in the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, of which a minimum of 12 credits must be at the 300 level (3 SPA classes and a foreign language internship).
6. Complete a successful SSP Internship or service-learning course² (3 credit hours) as part of the credit hour requirements.
7. Complete a successful exit interview in Spanish (Intermediate-Mid or above in the OPIc by ACTFL guidelines)³.

¹ Students will be able to retake courses for a higher grade.

² See SSP Internship/Service-Learning description in section V.

³ American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines can be found at <http://www.actfl.org/files/public/Guidelinespeak.pdf>

B) In addition to the requirements specified above, non-traditional (non-degree seeking) students⁴ will:

1. Have a minimum of 12 credit hours of successful college level work (grade C or above in all courses), with the following distribution (minimum): at least 6 credit hours in Area 1 (English Composition), at least 3 credit hours in Area 2 (Arts and Humanities), and at least 3 credit hours in Area 4 (Social Sciences).

3. SSPC Certificate of Completion

Upon successful completion of all the requirements specified in section 2, candidates will receive an official UAB Certificate of Completion, which will also be recorded on their transcript. Candidates must apply for their Certificate of Completion by April 1st if they are completing the program requirements in the spring semester or by December 1st, if they are completing the program requirements in the fall semester. Please, see SSPC website for details on how to apply for a Certificate of Completion.

4. Admission to the SSPC Program and Registration

Regular (degree-seeking) UAB students and non-traditional (non-degree seeking students) must submit an online application for the SSPC program through the SSPC website. Non-traditional or non-degree seeking students must be accepted as a UAB Temporary student prior to applying for the SSPC program (the UAB Blazer ID Number is necessary for the application form). Traditional UAB students will maintain their status as regular students and non-traditional students⁵ will register as temporary or non-degree students⁶.

5. How to make sure that I register for the class that will fulfill my special needs

If you are not sure that the class that you registered for is the appropriate one for you, please call the department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (205-934-4652) and make an appointment with the program director to discuss your specific language needs.

6. Student Population

SSPC candidates will consist of regular UAB students and local professionals who would like to advance and expand their careers. Both student groups must meet the requirements specific to their category described in section 2 above.

⁴ In this program we use the term “non-traditional student” with the meaning of “enrichment enrollee”, as opposed to “regular student”, who is the one who is seeking a degree as well as a certificate.

⁵ Non-native speakers of English will be required the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language, <http://www.toeflgoanywhere.org/>) examination or equivalent to enter the program.

⁶ Since students can take up to 12 credit hours as non-degree seeking students, overrides may be granted by the SSPC program director to ensure that SSPC candidates can fulfill the 18 credit-hour requirement.

7. SSPC courses offered

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at UAB offers the following courses⁷ as part of the Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate:

SPA 180-Spanish for Health Professionals
SPA 206-Intermediate Spanish for the Professions
SPA 214-Introduction to Translation and Interpretation
SPA 280/NUR 380- Inter. Spanish for Health Professionals
SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonology (required course)
SPA 313-Advanced Business Spanish
SPA 314-Spanish Translation and Interpretation
FLL 333-Foreign Language Service Learning/Internship (3 credits) (required course)
SPA 380/NUR 481-Advanced Spanish for Health Professionals
SPA 390/490-Study Abroad (valid only if directly related to SSP topics)
SPA 399- Medicine and Literature

7.1. SPA 280/NUR 380- Intermediate Spanish for Health Professionals

- Course description: This course puts emphasis on intensive conversation to acquaint health professional with basic structures of Spanish. The course focuses on practical vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, medical terminology and cultural interaction of Spanish-speaking patients.
- Credit hours: 3
- Prerequisite: Spanish 202 or equivalent.

7.2. SPA 206-Intermediate Spanish for the Professions

- Course description: This course emphasizes intensive conversation and acquisition of vocabulary pertinent to the professions while focusing on the Hispanic professional culture.
- Credit hours: 3
- Prerequisite: SPA 202 or equivalent

7.3. SPA 214-Introduction to Translation and Interpretation

⁷ The Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate must be completed with 6 classes (18 credits) from this list only. We strongly encourage students to schedule regular (once a year) advising sessions with the SSPC Director.

- Course description: This course presents an overview to the different techniques in Translation and Interpretation with a focus in Spanish applicable to different professions.
- Credit hours: 3
- Prerequisite: SPA 201 or equivalent

7.4. SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonology⁸

- Course description:

This upper-division undergraduate course is intended for students who are taking their first formal coursework in Spanish phonetics and phonology and who are motivated to do so by a wide variety of professionals and academic needs. These may include a need to improve their pronunciation of Spanish, a wish to expand their knowledge of the various dialects of the language, a desire to understand how the sound system of Spanish functions and a need to enhance their ability to relate sounds of the language to its spelling symbols. This course is required for all SSPC candidates.

- Credit hours: 3
- Prerequisite: 12 hours of Spanish on minor level

7.5. SPA 313-Business Spanish

- Course description:

This upper-division Spanish language and culture course is intended to prepare business and Spanish majors for successful communication in the Hispanic business world by building on their existing knowledge and emphasizing practical, real-life use of oral and written Spanish. This course will introduce the student to essential business terminology and language situations in common business contexts, reinforcing strategies for understanding, interpreting, and responding to new information. This course will also help the student to be alert to the importance of cultural awareness in doing business in Hispanic countries or with Hispanics in the United States.

- Credit hours: 3
- Prerequisite: 12 hours of Spanish on minor level

7.6. SPA 314-Spanish Translation and Interpretation

- Course description

⁸ SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonology is a mandatory course for all SSPC candidates.

This upper-division course is intended for students who wish to be able to translate written texts or who wish to be able to interpret oral speech in various areas (academic, professional, business or health related).

- Credit hours: 3
- Prerequisite: 12 hours of Spanish on minor level.

7.7. FLL 333-Foreign Language Internship/Service-Learning⁹

- Course description

This is an officially UAB Service-Learning designated course. Students completing this course will complete their UAB service-learning requirement. This hybrid course is an opportunity to engage in service-learning. It is a faculty-supervised opportunity for practical experience in the different professions. Candidates must apply at least one semester in advance through the SSPC director to complete the necessary paperwork and for appropriate placement.

- Credit hours: 3
- Prerequisite: 6 hours at the SPA 300 level or equivalent; Sophomore standing; 3.0 G.P.A. minimum. SSPC Program Director approval.

7.8. SPA 380/NUR 481-Advanced Spanish for Health Professionals

- Course Description:

This advanced course emphasizes and expands on intensive conversation, technical readings and vocabulary pertinent to the medical field. The course focuses on practical vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, medical terminology and cultural patterns of Spanish-speaking patients.

- Credit Hours: 3
- Pre-requisites: SPA 280 or equivalent

7.8. FLL 390/490- Study Abroad

- Course description

⁹ FLL 333-Foreign Language Internship/Service-Learning (3 credit hours) is mandatory for all SSPC candidates.

SSP Certificate candidates have the opportunity to receive up to 6 credits on study abroad course-work only if the study abroad program is directly related to an SSP field.

- Credit hours: 1-6
- Prerequisite: 6 hours at the 300 level or equivalent; Sophomore standing; 2.7 G.P.A. minimum. SSPC Program Director or Chairperson approval.

8. Language Tables

SSPC candidates are encouraged to participate in the weekly Spanish conversation tables offered by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (please, see schedule in the DFLL website).

10. Integration of SSP Classes in UAB's QEP

All SSP courses will fully comply with the UAB Quality Enhancement Plan¹⁰ (see detailed description of how each course complies with the QEP in the Appendix).

11. Advising

SSPC candidates are required to schedule at least one advising session per year with the SSPC Director.

12. Mentoring

SSPC candidates will identify a mentor from a UAB or community professional related to their field of study, and meet with him or her at least once per semester.

13. How to obtain more information

Please, visit our website at: <http://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp> or contact program director:

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UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,
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Mailing Address: HB 407-G, 1530 3rd Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35294-1260

¹⁰ <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/DOE/QEP/>

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APPENDIX

Description and Integration of SSPC Courses in the

UAB Quality Enhancement Plan

Courses and course descriptions

SPA 206-Intermediate Spanish For the Professions: Course Description

This course puts emphasis on intensive conversation and acquisition of vocabulary for the professions while focusing on the Hispanic professional culture. Prerequisite: SPA 202 or equivalent. 3 hours.

SPA 280-Intermediate Spanish for Health Professionals: Course Description

Intermediate level course geared to acquaint health professionals with basic structures of Spanish. The course focuses on practical vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, medical terminology and cultural patterns of Spanish-speaking patients. This is an interactive course where Spanish is the only language of instruction. Spanish 201 and 202 or equivalent (6 hours at 200-level) are prerequisites.

SPA 313-Business Spanish: Course Description

This advanced Spanish language and culture course will prepare business and Spanish majors for successful communication in the Hispanic business world by building up on their existing knowledge and emphasizing practical, real-life use of oral and written Spanish. This course will introduce the student to essential business terminology and language situations in common business contexts, reinforcing strategies for understanding, interpreting, and responding to new information. This course will also help the student to be alert to the importance of cultural awareness in doing business in Hispanic countries or with Hispanics in the United States. 3 hours.

SPA 314-Spanish Translation and Interpretation: Course Description:

This course develops basic knowledge, skills and techniques required for interpreting and translating as well as continued growth of linguistic resources such as vocabulary, structures and style within a Spanish/ English bilingual cultural and social context. Prerequisite: Six semester hours of Spanish at the minor level.

Targeted Competencies and Learning Outcomes for SSPC Courses:

The targeted competencies and learning outcomes of the SSPC courses incorporate the basic goals expressed in the UAB QEP committee's Shared Vision for its undergraduates. These courses promote problem-solving, effective communication, knowledge acquisition, civic and ethic awareness.

SSPC candidates will:

1. QEP Goals for Writing:

A. Respond to assigned topics.

- Examine text types.
- Describe business and health-related settings.
- Prepare business and health-related documents and correspondence in the form of a portfolio for future reference.

B. Develop professional basic writing skills.

- Generate and respond to professional correspondence
- Generate and respond to various business and health-related documents including but not limited to: invoices, tax documents, customs forms, employment and banking documents, prescriptions, patients' history charts, etc.
- Examine, outline and compare articles and texts that present various business and health-related situations and models, and viewpoints in the Hispanic professional community.

C. Exhibit competence in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

- Conduct accurate and successful business and health-related interviews and meetings in Spanish.
- Write professional documents such as invoices, tax documents, customs forms, employment, banking, prescriptions, patients' history charts, etc.

2. QEP Goals for Quantitative Literacy

A. Using multiple formats, including verbal, symbolic, visual and numerical, to present information.

- Demonstrate understanding of business and health-related documents in Spanish such as invoices, tax documents, customs forms, employment, banking, prescriptions, patient history documents, etc.

B. Interpreting mathematical representations, such as formulas, graphs, tables and diagrams, in order to draw valid inferences from them.

- Examination of Spanish-speaking business and health-related population demographics by region or countries and how these statistics impact the population in the United States.

3. QEP Goals for Ethics and Civic Responsibility

A. Understand and apply ethical and moral considerations, as they relate to everyday choices.

- Further develop communicative competence within the cultural context of various regions of the Spanish-speaking world.
- Further understanding of the Hispanic business and health-related cultures.

B. Should be able to identify and discuss, with understanding and respect for diverse perspectives and practices, social and professional issues of contemporary importance.

- Examine and express how cultural variables affect business and health-related transactions and methods.
- Examine cultural norms and practice within and outside of the Spanish-speaking professional community.
- Examine case studies of cultural contact within and outside of the Spanish-speaking professional community.